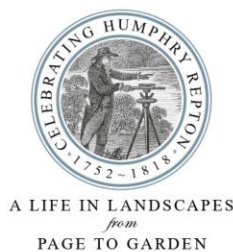


SHARING REPTON: HISTORIC LANDSCAPES FOR ALL
Beginners' Research & Recording Project:
Adults and School
Case Study



An introductory-research and recording project for people new to garden history, based on their local park, Warley Woods in the Black Country, building a group of trained volunteers.

This was complemented by a series of workshops for a nearby primary school, to introduce the children to garden history also.



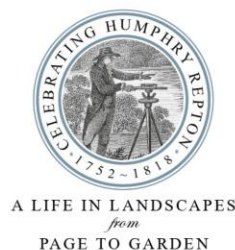


What happened: Using flyers and an enticing lecture, we recruited a crack team of local people keen to find out more about their park, and took them through a series of workshops to learn to 'read' a landscape on the ground, to research using archives, to write up the research into useful and accessible formats, and to share their new garden history knowledge with others. They rose to the challenge and wrote a Statement of Significance for the Historic Environment Record, a groundbreaking leaflet, and laid on an open day event to tell other locals about Repton at Warley Woods.

We also worked with the adjacent primary school to take 90 10-11 year olds through sessions teaching them to recognise the historic landscape in their local park, to use archive material, and to determine heritage values. They treated us and 180 parents to a fabulous exhibition of their work on Repton and Warley Woods!

Reuse potential: This project required commitment from both organisers and participants over several months, but was extremely effective at recruiting a dedicated group of new volunteers who have an impressive range of skills and are continuing to work together beyond the life of the project. We would recommend it to any organisations wishing to improve their volunteer numbers.

The school section of the project was immensely rewarding and provides a clear and achievable framework for groups wanting to work with schools or local children and spark an interest in garden history.





Top Tips:

- We ran the schools project simultaneously with the adult one, but each could be run entirely without the other.
- We were worried that spreading workshops to once a month or so would lose momentum, but actually it meant that the group had time to relax and gel.
- When working with the school, take time to brief the teachers and find out what works for them. An engaged teacher can help bring the activity to life!
- Make contact with your local archivist and Historic Environment Record Officer as they could be invaluable in helping deliver some of the workshops.
- The template we used for the leaflet is available online for free reuse!
- There is definitely a need for a central contact to coordinate and energise. We hired a professional engagement consultant so we could gain a fresh perspective, but we took care that it could also be delivered by a keen non-professional.

Support materials include:

- Method statement for a simple Heritage Open Day
- Poster for a multicultural event
- Press release
- Volunteer brief for a multicultural event
- Heritage Open Days guidance documents

For free support materials to help you run a similar activity, please visit:

thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/networking-materials/sharing-repton-2/

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